CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NUMBER: 90-090

AMENDMENT OF SITE CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS, NO. 89-115, FOR:

LYNCH CIRCUITS, INC.
and
SILICONIX, INC.
1140 WEST EVELYN AVENUE
SUNNYVALE
SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. SITE DESCRIPTION Lynch Circuits, Inc.,(LC), the current owner, operated from 1977 to 1987 the facility located at 1140 West Evelyn Avenue, Sunnyvale, California (facility or site) as shown on the location map of Figure 1, Appendix D. Siliconix, Inc., (SI) a former occupant, operated the facility from 1962 to sometime in 1970. Lynch Circuits, Inc. and Siliconix, Inc. shall hereinafter be referred to as the dischargers.

2. SITE HISTORY In 1962, the facility was constructed and leased by Renault and Handley to SI, who reportedly occupied the facility until some time in 1970. A 1962 architectural rendering shows a diffusion room, masking area and large assembly room. The drawing also shows locations of trichloroethene (TCE) and acid lines that trend in a north-south direction through the east portion of the building to two sumps behind and immediately north of the building.

   Prior to LCs occupancy in 1977, owners and/or operators known as Elca Battery and I.P.T. (IPT) may have, or were known to have, occupied the site. Information supplied by SI stated Elca Battery occupied the site between 1970 and 1972. Corporate historical information supplied by Siliconix indicated that Elca Battery was an SI subsidiary company.

   LC placed the manufacturing facility and property on the market for sale in 1988. The prospective buyer retained a consultant to perform an environmental assessment of the property. Metals were detected in the soil and solvents were detected in the soil and groundwater.

3. SITE INVESTIGATIONS Information submitted by SI to Board staff on May 1, 1989, reported that SI used TCE, chromic acid, copper, lead and other heavy metals. It was also reported that waste solvent was poured into a drain that led to a gravity-fed sump in the rear of the building. Remedial investigation work performed onsite since July, 1989, has revealed the presence of various chlorinated VOC pollutants in the soil and groundwater. Underground utility searches beneath the building has substantiated the presence of former north-south trending utility lines. A buried rectangular object south of the building was also located during the underground utility search. Subsequent investigations have focussed on characterizing pollution originating from faulty plant utilities.

4. HYDROGEOLOGY Groundwater monitoring wells are at eight onsite locations. Six wells screen the shallow aquifer between 50 and 65 feet deep and two wells screen the deeper aquifer between 88 and 103 feet below the surface. Groundwater flow in the shallow aquifer is northwesterly. Quarterly groundwater monitoring, ongoing since September, 1989, indicates a slight increase of pollution in the downgradient wells. Attempts have been made to install offsite downgradient monitoring wells (proposed locations, Figure 2, Appendix D). Efforts to construct offsite wells on private properties have been blocked due to uncooperative property owners. Offsite wells are proposed to be placed on county property near the Central Expressway (Figure 3, Appendix D).

5. REGULATORY ISSUES The current owner has expeditiously pursued site investigations and soil and groundwater pollutant characterization. Property access problems have resulted in delays of offsite pollutant characterization work. A report for both onsite and offsite work was impossible to complete and only the results of onsite work was submitted on May 15, 1990. In lieu of enforcement actions for incomplete reports, the task requirement for Provision C.3.e. will be split into two sections.

6. This action is an order to enforce the laws and regulations administered by the Board. This action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Section 15321 of the Resources Agency Guidelines.

7. The Board has notified the dischargers and interested agencies and persons of its intent under California Water Code Section 13304 to prescribe Site Cleanup Requirements for the discharge and has provided them with the opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

8. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Section 13304 of the California Water Code, that the dischargers shall cleanup and abate the effects described in the above findings as follows:

A. AMENDMENTS OF ORDER NO. 89-115

1. Provision C.3.e. shall be modified to the following:

e.(i) REPORT OF FURTHER ONSITE INVESTIGATIONS

TASK: Submit a technical report acceptable to the Executive Officer evaluating and presenting the results of the further investigations referred to in Task C.2.c. The additional work would be to further assess the extent of soil and groundwater pollution including the installation and sampling of any necessary additional borings, monitoring wells and/or soil-gas surveys. This document, submitted on May 15, 1990, reports on additional onsite environmental assessment work.

COMPLETION DATE: Task Completed

e.(ii) REPORT OF FURTHER OFFSITE INVESTIGATIONS

TASK: Submit a technical report acceptable to the Executive Officer evaluating and presenting the results of the offsite investigations referred to in Task C.2.c. Additional work is necessary to assess the extent of offsite migration of the groundwater pollutant plume.

COMPLETION DATE: September 30, 1990

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on June 20, 1990.

Steven R. Ritchie
EXECUTIVE OFFICER